

of fugitive slaves, and free traffic in slaves for



between the States, unless forbidden by them  
selves.

In the first place, California is to be permitted to remain free, if the territories of New Mexico and

I shall confine myself mainly, and per-  
wholly, to Mr. Webster's views, because he  
argued the cause of the South with vastly  
ability than it has been argued by any one a-  
themselves. If his conclusions, then, be not  
ble, their case is lost.\*

During the same campaign, also, the Honorable Rufus Choate, one of the most eloquent men in New England, and known to be the personal friend of Mr. Foster, delivered a speech at Salem, in which the wing passage occurs:

"It is the passage of a law to say that California New Mexico shall remain forever free. That is, citizens, undoubtedly, an object of great and transcendent importance; for there is none who will deny that we should go no to the very limits of the continent."

Such a faithful abstract of what Mr. Webster said to Southern Senators, and through them to the South.

Here certainly was a reflection upon the unpopularity of the intelligence of the South, such as no man could cast upon them before. But the balm went not in. They bore the affront to their judgment, and cast it was so grateful to their politics and peckcase, that they thought it no injustice to those Senators to say, that they were wrong in not doing so. They were not to be insulted, if it had not added fifty per cent. to individual property, and secured and perpetuated political ascendancy.

To help our conceptions in regard to Mr. Webster's course, on this subject, let us imagine a parallel case. Suppose that one of our Senators, from the North, should suppose the contest between the North and South, on the subject of the Tariff, to have been decided for years. The sober blood of the North is heated to the fever point. The newspapers treat of nothing but the tariff, and private conversation dwells on the theme. Hundreds of delegates wait upon Congress, and, if it be not a feather's weight, in the scale, holds their interests. Petitions flow in, in thou-

"But we desire not to be misunderstood. As touching to our convictions, there is no power in any branch of government, or all its branches, to annex territory to this Union. We have made the foregoing remarks on the subject, not so much to show that we could show such a power to exist as to show that we exercised in any form, yet the manner of its exercise now proposed is destitute of all decent semblance of constitutional propriety."

Thus cancelling the authority of Mr. Webster 1850 by the authority of Mr. Webster in 1845, coincided with the argument of the President.

Though the annexation of Texas was in pursuance of a void stipulation, yet it is a clear principle of law, when a contract void between the parties has been acted on by them, it cannot then be annulled. If by virtue of the contract it is void, it is void by the contract, not by virtue of the contract, but by the stipulation, and would fulfil it. It is a clear principle of law, that a stipulation which remains unexecuted, remains void, and that part of the annexation resolutions which resolved for the admission of a brood of Texan States

purpose of executing said warrant; and marshal, or his deputy, shall have authority to cause so appointed shall to the extent of executing such warrant, and detaining and transporting the fugitive with him, have all the power and authority which he would be entitled to in the same capacity and expenses provided by law, set, in cases where services are performed by the marshal.

Sec. 5. And it be further enacted, That any who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct or hinder such claimant, his agent or attorney, or any person assisting him, her, or them, in so serving or arresting such fugitive from labor, or rescue such fugitive from such claimant, his agent or attorney, when so arrested, pursuant to this act herein given or declared, or shall aid, abet, or such person so owing service or labor to escape or conceal such claimant, his agent or attorney, or shall harbor or assist such fugitive from labor, or aid, abet, or rescue such fugitive from labor, after notice that he or she has been taken, shall be liable to pay for each and said offences, forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, which penalty may be recovered by the benefit of such claimant, by action of debt, or otherwise; and no person shall be held liable for any crime proper to try the same, saying, moreover the persons named in this act shall be

Let those who, aid, abet, or connive at Slavery, now, as they read the damning sentence of history has awarded against the actors, rhetoricians, and convicers of the African trade, *but change the text* and they will be reading of themselves. Should the *scenarists* be hereafter filled with groaning men, should the *chorus* be composed of Egypt, civilized over by ten thousand Pharos, it is no defence for those who permitted it, to say, "We supposed, we trusted, that Slavery could last there;" Nemesis, as she plies her scorpion lash, will say, "It might have made it certain."

On this question, the triumph or Slavery, I have served with grief, nay, with tears. But we, men, break up into hostile parties, hurl imprecations and recriminations to and fro, and expend strength for the ruin of each other, which should be against the enemies of Liberty: while the South, the North, the East, and the West, are all obliterated, dispersed, and scattered.







